(c) whether the Government are considering any joint R&D projects with the C–DOT in upstaging the fast changing technological advances in Telecom; and

(d) if so, the details of such areas and its collaboration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) C–DOT performance, progress and activities are monitored and evaluated periodically by its Project Board, Steering Committee and Governing Council. During the last seven years, following evaluations have also been carried out by various Statutory Bodies:

1. Internal Departmental Review Committee, set up in May, 1986 under the Chairmanship of Shri V.M. Sundaram, Member (TD).

2. Internal Departmental Review Committee, set up in January, 1988 under the Chairmanship of Shri V.M. Sundaram, member (TD).

3. Nambiar Committee set up in January, 1990.

4. CAG in January, 1990.

(c) C–DOT itself is a Government funded organisation, hence does not arise.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer (c) above.

Areas identified for promotion of Food Processing Industries

6161. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have identified areas for promotion of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have received investment plans from the foreign investors and NRIs for this sector and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Food Processing Industries except for beer and Potable alcohol and some other products are now identified as the priority industries. Ministry has identified processed fruits and vegetable products, meat and poultry processing, deep sea fishing and fish processing, modernisation of rice hullers, soya based products and cereal/grain based products etc. as the thrust areas for development.

(c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telegraph Review Committee

6162. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telegraph Review Committee has laid special emphasis on providing built-in safeguards against the misuse of the provision in the Telegraph Act meant to protect 'national security' interests through telephone tapping; and

(b) if so, the other suggestions of the Committee and the Government's reaction thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE